

Action Agenda 1999-2004

What Kentucky State University Will Do To Advance Kentucky's Reform of Postsecondary Education

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Why is it important for Kentucky to have Kentucky State University as one of its comprehensive universities?

- Kentucky State University is the Commonwealth's small, public, largely residential, liberal-studies institution, emphasizing the teaching of undergraduates – many of them from underserved populations.
- Kentucky State offers traditional collegiate programs appropriate to its role and status as the only historically black university in Kentucky. Drawing upon its African-American heritage, the university promotes the values and methods of interdisciplinary, multicultural, and global education. All undergraduates take a common core of courses as part of their studies.
- KSU prepares students for careers in education, business, computer science, nursing, human services, and public service as well as other fields.
- As the public university in Kentucky's capital, KSU offers programs, including a master's degree in public administration, that are especially appropriate for the thousands of nearby government employees.
- As one of two land-grant universities in Kentucky, KSU is developing a program of distinction – aquaculture – that is advancing the study (a master's in aquaculture) and production of fresh-water seafood. The prawns and fish are increasingly in demand by consumers and by farmers seeking an alternative or supplement to tobacco.

How will Kentucky State enroll, retain, and graduate more students?

- Strengthen recruiting, in part through more contact between instructors and successful alumni and prospective students and the schools they attend
- Maintain broad access – which means admitting promising but underprepared students – and stress the importance of taking remedial courses and doing well in them
- Improve retention and graduation rates through more effective mentoring and counseling, especially of first-year students
- Increase the number of graduate students through the aquaculture program and offerings tailored for state government employees
- Work with and through the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University to increase course offerings and provide the convenience of “any time, any place” education

How will Kentucky State and the publics it serves become more engaged with one another?

- Provide applied research and service to state government
- Work with Kentucky farmers to develop the potential of aquafarming
- Continue to become a major repository for the collection of books, records, and artifacts relating to the history and status of African-American residents of the Commonwealth and elsewhere.
- Foster partnerships with schools, businesses, governments, and civic organizations to help identify and resolve community issues and problems

How will KSU know whether it has done what it says it will do?

- Track undergraduate student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates – and compare them with the improvements pledged as part of the overall Action Agenda
- Closely follow and report yearly on the progress that remedial students make – first in remedial instruction and later in college-level courses
- Monitor the success of the aquaculture program – in terms of research, number of graduate students (15 by 2004), number of farms participating, and how productive those farms are
- Count the number of all graduate students (104 in 2004 including aquaculture)
- Survey state government periodically to determine how well KSU is meeting its needs for training, education, and research; note the number of graduate students enrolling in and completing programs designed to attract state employees
- Each year, assess and report on the number and effectiveness of partnerships